

Christ, the Firstfruits

By REV. JOHN C. PAGE
Teacher of Bible Doctrine, Moody Bible Institute, Chicago.

TEXT—Now is Christ risen from the dead and become the firstfruits of them that shall be.—1 Cor. 15:20.

The Bible is a book of facts out of which issue great spiritual truths. These truths have been formulated into doctrines. To "the natural man," these doctrines are like the dry bones of Ezekiel's vision—very many and very dry. To the regenerated man they are like the other part of that vision—when the

dry bones had been gathered together, and quickened from heaven; vitalized and made to stand upon their feet, an invading great army ready for battle. You are a Christian believer, because of that which minimizes the importance of Christian doctrine. The value of Christian truth and doctrine lies in its ability to supply spiritual power, to furnish moral incentive and to impart mental vision and understanding. This very truth of Christ risen from the dead, the firstfruits of them that slept, is an example of this. When believed and received it operates in a saving way: "If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus Christ, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."

Salvation Comprehensive.

Salvation is a big word, and comprehends the whole process of God's peaceful work, past, present and future. It includes the resurrection of Christ as the firstfruits and the resurrection of believers in Christ as the harvest. The firstfruits is the pattern and pledge of the coming harvest. In the Mosaic law the Hebrew people were directed to bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of the harvest to the Lord as the first sheaf of the harvest. So is Christ presented as the firstfruits of the glorious and plentiful harvest to come—"Because I live, ye shall live also." There is spiritual power in this. What is true of our Lord is true of every believer in Him. Everything is made dependent on the believer's position as united to Christ. This underlies the whole philosophy of the Gospel message, in which we are invited to change our position from headship in Adam to headship in Christ, who through His atonement for sin and His victory over death and the grave, has become Savior to all who put their trust in Him.

The doctrine of our identity with Christ and our participation in His eternal life and victory supplies moral incentive for a holy walk, and for sacrificial service. This very truth of the bodily resurrection of Christ and of the resurrection of Christian believers when He returns, is the ground of the appeal in 1 Cor. 15:58—"Therefore be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."

The Apostle John used the same basis of appeal and finds moral incentive in the same facts—"Beloved, now are the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be, but we know that when He shall appear we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as He is pure."

These great doctrines concerning the future blessings of Christian believers are never presented as abstract truths or for mere academic discussion, but as vitalizing truths supplying the necessary incentive for the conflict with evil within and without.

Worldly Philosophy Inadequate. Such a truth as this concerning our Lord's resurrection as the firstfruits of a great harvest, to follow imparts clear mental vision and understanding concerning the future. It reveals the future from that dreary impenitence and unthinkableness into which false philosophy and false spiritualism have put it. The New Testament teaching of the resurrection is plain, and when believed it saves us from the delusive teaching against which the Holy Spirit through the inspired writers always puts Christians on their guard. "Beware, lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ." This philosophy may be very attractive; it is to the natural mind. It has in it a speciousness and an appearance which promise much, but which in the end give no rest, no power for a holy life and no solid hope for the future. It belongs to the rudiments of the world and is not after Christ.

The religion of the New Testament is plain and homely. It begins with a babe in a cradle. It follows that way all the way through death and resurrection to the place of power where the crucified and risen Man is seated on the right hand of God. It is as simple as life in the risen Lord and look to become like Him, risen in His very power in a glorified body when He comes. From the heavens He speaks—Believe in Me, live in Me, and you shall arise in Me when I return.

JOHN SHELL DIES AT AGE OF 134

Lexington, Ky., July 9.—"Uncle John" Shell, "the oldest man in the world," who said he was 134 years old died last week at his home near Hyden, Leslie County, and was buried with two of his sons, William Shell, 90, and Albert Shell, 7, as mourners at his grave, according to reports received here tonight.

"Uncle John," it was said, retained his faculties up to the last, and discussed the funeral arrangements with his relatives while he was dying. He had always maintained that he was born in Tennessee in 1788, the son of Samuel Shell, a gun maker, and that he had lived in the little cabin on Greasy Creek, in which he died, for more than 100 years.

Up until the time he was "discovered" about four years ago, "Uncle John" had led a secluded life in the mountain country, but since then he had traveled considerably.

Mrs. Lida Miller, of near Beaver Dam, was the victim of a most painful accident Monday when, in the process of hanging out clothes, she lost her balance and fell, breaking a bone in each forearm. She was given prompt medical attention and is getting along as well as could be expected.

Mrs. Nettie M. Reid, of Rockport, and daughters, Mrs. Cozie M. Dupuy, of Rockport, and Mrs. P. O. McKinney, and son, Oliver James, of Oakmont, Pa., will arrive in Hartford Thursday or Friday, to spend a week or ten days with Mrs. Reid's sister, Mrs. R. H. Gillespie and family, and other relatives.

SAYS ANIMALS DO REMEMBER

Why Old Idea Is Wrong Is Proved by Incidents Related by English Writer.

I have read an article in which a trapper denies that animals have a real memory, says a writer in the London Times. He admitted that most of them knew enough to avoid a trap after an experience or two with it, but contended that this was merely a manifestation of the self-preservation instinct.

The same man cited an instance—not at all unfamiliar—of a dog's refusing to hunt with a man who had kicked him. He said that this too was only the instinct of all living creatures to avoid injury.

Animals do have memory—at least some of them do. The trapper's theory would not explain those many evidences of recollection wherein self-preservation plays no part. I once carried a fox-terrier into the house after he had been well-nigh killed by an automobile. His master had just moved into the apartment house, and I had never seen the dog before that day. We moved away two days later, and I did not see the terrier for over four months. Then one day I passed the house—or was about to do so—when out came that dog, wagging his stubby tail. He jumped all over me, in joyful recognition—and memory.

An amusing story, significant on this subject, is told by my father. As a boy he lived on a farm, and was always a close student of animal nature. The mare he usually drove was old and fat, and would never go faster than a walk unless urged. There were two roads to town, one branching off from the other and a little shorter. It had been Old Man's custom to take this road, of her own volition, until on one occasion a vicious dog barked at her and snapped at her legs. After that the driver had to be on his guard; Maud would speed up when about 50 yards from the turn-off and try to get by it before she could be restrained. This showed not only memory, but a sense for planning.

Why Mirrors Become Clouded.

"These wintry and rainy days are sure tough for me," said the elevator man in an office building.

"How's that?" asked the casual passenger.

"Look at those mirrors on each side of the car," directed the elevator man. "I have to wipe them off about every five minutes. On cold days the feminine nose gets red, and on rainy days—well, the rain washes the powder off their noses. What's the result? Every carload I take up crowds over near these mirrors, takes out the old powder puff and starts doling. There's a bunch of them, you see, and by the time I reach the top floor the mirrors are so clouded with powder they don't reflect a thing."

Why Malamute Dogs Are Scarce.

Malamute dogs, the half-wolf, half-canine animals known as huskies, are selling in the North at \$100 apiece and up, according to returned hunters and prospectors. When the North is snow-bound and lakes and rivers are locked with ice against navigation, travel is almost exclusively by dog sled. The lowest price at which dogs can be obtained is \$100 each, according to advices. First-class animals, such as crack "mushers" pride themselves on keeping, are hard to get at any price, and when obtainable cost several hundred dollars, or as much as a good horse in the South. Scarcity of dogs, it is said, is due to the neglect of breeding stock by the Indians.



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PRENTISS

July 6.—Miss —White, of near Bowling Green, has been visiting Miss Lillian Choran.

Misses Pearl and Jessie Nourse, of Central City, and Miss Ethel Morton, of Livermore, returned home last Saturday, after a visit with relatives near here.

Miss Lettie Kuykendall, of Centertown, and Miss Eva Morton and M. W. Underwood, of Livermore, spent last Sunday week with Mr. and Mrs. Albert Patterson.

Mr. Charlie Taylor and family, of Danville, Ky., and Mr. and Mrs. Otis Taylor, of Johnson City, Tenn., are visiting their father, Mr. H. B. Taylor, and other relatives near here.

Mrs. —Penley and children, of Provo, Ky., visited her father, Mr. Morgan Pendley, and Mrs. Pendley, recently.

Mr. Kennett Swain, of Owensboro, visited relatives here last week.

Miss Virginia Stevens visited her

uncle, Mr. Lon Stevens, and Mrs. Stevens, recently.

Messrs. Wm. and Allen French motored to Centertown, last Sunday. Mr. Joe Rogers, of Echols, visited relatives near here, last week.

Mr. Wm. Taylor, of Penn., spent a few days with relatives near here, this week.

EASTVIEW

July 10.—A heavy rain fell at this place Friday evening, accompanied by a heavy wind-storm.

Messrs. B. J. and W. T. French were in Hartford, Tuesday.

Mr. A. T. French was in Owensboro, Wednesday for medical treatment.

Mr. Albert Stewart and family were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Luther Collins, of Centertown, Saturday and Sunday.

Mrs. Emma Martin spent Sunday with relatives at Maxwell.

Mr. L. D. French spent Saturday

and Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Luther Collins, of Centertown.

Mr. Harland Wiggington and family spent Saturday night and Sunday with relatives at Maxwell.

Mr. Charley Hoover and family spent Sunday at Central City with friends.

Mrs. Veora French spent Wednesday with relatives at Pleasant Ridge.

26 COUNTIES HAVE NOT MADE RETURNS

Frankfort, Ky., July 6.—Twenty-six of the 120 counties in Kentucky either have not sent in their tax returns for the year or have failed to meet increases ordered by the state tax commission. It was announced at the office of the commission here today. Recapitulations from eleven others have not been approved pending the outcome of appeals from the assessments made by the tax supervisors.

FREAK POTATO

Mr. Lewis Easterday, of the No Creek vicinity, left with us last week a freak Irish potato, which he found in his patch recently. The potato grew in the handle of a door latch which had become imbedded in the ground, and had made such efforts to free itself that it had broken the latch. The potato still surrounded by the piece of metal is now on display at this office. The managing editor is indebted to Mr. Easterday for a half dozen large and very white potatoes, which grew in the patch with the one mentioned above.

REPRESENTATIVE KINKAID DIES IN WASHINGTON

Washington, July 6.—M. P. Kinkaid, member of the house of representatives from the Sixth Nebraska district, died here today. He had been ill of a complication of diseases since early in May.